



Dunedin Methodist Parish

Finding Good in everyone Finding God in everyone

www.dunedinmethodist.org.nz

Presbyters:	Rev. Siosifa Pole	455 2923
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Mornington:		

PARISH BULLETIN

10th July 2016

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 17th July

9.30 am	Mornington	S Pole
9.30 am	Mosgiel	G Abernethy
11.00 am	Glenaven	S Pole
11.00 am	Wesley	G Abernethy
1.00 pm	St Kilda	TBA

BIBLE WITH ATTITUDE - This coming Wednesday, 13th July will be the last session of seven series of lessons for those who attend this Parish event. I have to acknowledge Rod for preparing the materials and also those who took part in this series. Surely, everyone was inspired and learned how to relate the Bible to their own stories. Evidently, the learning from this series will enable our lay people to be ready for the ministries that they engage in the Parish and in the wider community. Siosifa Pole.



IT ALL BEGAN when our beloved Ghanaian friend ADJOA BANSON turned up at Church with the most stylish hat, so stylish in fact that many other women asked themselves the question whether they were suitably attired for the worship of Almighty God! Sensing the mood, Colin suggested that for Adjoa's final service everyone should wear a hat - as an identification with a young African woman who won our hearts. Adjoa is gone now, returned to Ghana with her graduation certificate from the School of Physiotherapy = but the memory of her lovely presence remains, hats or no hats.





NOTES FROM OTAGO-SOUTHLAND SYNOD HELD AT LINDISFARNE, Waihopai (Invgl) Sat 2nd July 2016.

Dunedin Parish was represented by Rev Siosifa Pole, Fay Richardson (MWF rep), Shirley Parslow (Parish rep), Hilda Hughson (Parish Steward).

We had 8 papers to respond to, including

- Methodist Alliance establishment working group report (proposal for all Methodist Missions to join to e.g. 'take up shared projects and maximise their collective strength') They have a very good set of theological principles and values set out as underpinning their work.
- Two papers written by David Poultney (Faith & Order Cte of Conference) on **Leadership** – style, power, authority. **Episcopal Ministry** – about the Irish Methodists inducting a new President of Conference by 'the laying on of hands' by Anglican Bishops as well as past Methodist Presidents.

- Two-Yearly Methodist Conference. We are in the process of seeing how this might work by holding Conference in 2016, 2018 and 2020, followed by a review.
- A review of the Methodist Church Disciplinary Code. Contact person is David Bush 03-3666049 or mobile 021392500. Poster to come.
- Discussion paper on Earthquake-prone building by MCPC.
- We were encouraged to read about how the new Health and Safety Legislation, which came into effect on April 1, will affect us - in the July edition of Touchstone.
- Nigel Pitts gave a detailed property report. Property Committee is Nigel, Ernest Willis and Dunedin based PF&R.
- Parish reports: **Alexandra** had a Celebration Day of some older folk who'd given many years' service to church and community, including Alan Graves; invited Rev Selwyn Yeoman (earth care) and Lyn Baarb (Listening well) to speak to them; participating in Alex Thyme Festival; had a Dessert and Quizz night. **Bluff** has a lively congregation of about 14 adults and 14 young children. **Riverton** is finding it harder to find lay leaders. Ernest leads funerals as well as communion services. **Lindisfarne** (Invercargill) has been through a review with Alan Webster and has invited Peter Taylor to continue in ministry for up to 5 more years.
- Dorothy Willis (Riverton) has short (8min) videos for individuals interested in Methodist Lay leadership/ training. (email: DorothyEWillis@xtra.co.nz)
- Rachael Masterton has been nominated, from outside the Synod, for President-elect of Conference, with Rev Ian Faulkner as vice-president-elect.

- We had several men talk to us about their very different ministries with men in Southland Methodist/Union churches.

Next Synod is Nov 11th in Alexandra. Methodist Conference is at Wesley College 1-5th October. (Hilda Hughson)

**OTAGO DISTRICT WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

To be held in the Mosgiel Methodist Church
Saturday 16 July 2016

12:30pm - POT LUCK LUNCH

Please bring FINGER FOOD to share

1:45pm - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Collection for Social Services - going to the Family Support Fund

TIME AND THE WONDER OF THE UNIVERSE

Christians have in the Bible an ancient story of the life-cycle of the universe from Creation to the Apocalypse. On Wednesday 20 July, Open Education presents a film giving a truly astonishing modern account of Time and the lifespan of our universe from its beginning to its end, as scientists now understand it. Magnificent images, a compelling narrative, ideas to set you thinking about faith as well as science. Wednesday, 20 July, 7.30pm, at the Mornington Methodist Church (koha \$5). Book for the \$15 6pm pre-session meal catered by Judy Russell: sign in or ring 455 3727 by Monday 18 July.



STORIES FROM THE MISSION

Little Citizens: In the Kiwi Room we have been focussing on working together in small groups, developing relationships, language and social skills. Recently we have been working together on Matariki art, and created a display to share with whānau and visitors on our Family Matariki Dinner Night. The children added stars and glitter to background scenes on Van Gogh's Starry Night, or the night sky above The Church of the Good Shepherd at Tekapo. Gluing is always a favourite activity, and holding the brush, pasting it into the glue container, and brushing it purposefully over the paper develops dexterity and control over the muscles in wrist, hand and fingers. We also decorated cut-out stars to add to our display.

Clutha ECE Project: Kerri has been making enquiries as to who the secretary of Federated Farmers is in the Milton area as a meeting with him would help to get to know what young families are in the farming community. With the downturn in farming many farming families with young children are now choosing not to travel into town to drop their children at early childhood centres. A suggestion from our MoE contact was an option for the families to get together and use Te Kura (the correspondence school). Kerri ran this idea by an ex-farmer – they thought the idea had merit but may be hard to implement in hectic farming lives..



A GENEROUS HOSPITALITY

With his permission, I reprint part of a recent article by Phil McCarthy, National Director of Prison Fellowship, New Zealand (he will be speaking in our Open Education programme in September).

In the Anglican Diocese of Wellington, of which I'm part, we've recently focused on what 'A Generous Hospitality' might look like. It's easy these days to despair as we observe what is happening in this country and in the world around us. The world is not majoring on hospitality!

The sight on our TV screens of American Republican political candidates is deeply troubling as they spew hatred, actively foster racism and violence, glorify war and even war crimes, seek to exploit people's fear of minorities into votes for political office, and firmly divide the world into 'us' and 'them' camps.

Sometimes it seems to be difficult to stand for a generous hospitality in a world that is increasingly secular and that sometimes displays outright hostility to 'religious' values. If we return briefly to the American presidential campaign, we get a whiff of how this has come about. Trump has apparently promised that under a Trump presidency 'Christianity will have power again' – stick with me and I will give you influence, power and prestige. Those of us who are Christian should far more readily identify the voice of the desert tempter than Jesus in this quote, but we are faced with the apparent paradox that in the throngs round Trump are many who would claim the Christian label—and the allegedly ultra-Christian Ted Cruz espouses even more elitist, exclusionary and hate-filled policies.

Here in New Zealand, we've heard the cry of anguish of the Children's Commissioner as a real opportunity to do something about poor housing standards for poor children goes sliding past.

Writing in *Tui Motu* magazine recently, Peter Matheson commented on these worrying New Zealand trends. Noting that the powers-that-be of the corporate and political worlds are truly formidable, he went on to say:

Behind the callow 'humanism' which largely has replaced a religious commitment can lurk a ruthless inhumanity. There is scant sympathy for the refugee, the fostered child, the lowly paid and the weak. Into the vacuum of values has rushed a totalitarianism of the market, impatient of dissent and with a growing throttle-hold on education, health and welfare. The dominant culture we are up against in Aotearoa today has both ideological and structural dimensions. It propagates a vision of social life that is predominantly hedonistic and individualistic.

I've come to realise that 'hospitality' is indeed a great way to capture the heart of any organisation that is genuinely driven by Gospel values. What are they? I see them as the following:

- A welcoming inclusiveness

- Forgiveness

- A non-violent disposition

- Humility

- Care for the poor, the overlooked, the ignored

A generous hospitality is the antidote to both the merciless capitalism and the elitist, bastardised Christianity that seeks to exclude and to impoverish so many. Whatever our faith position, we all need to open our hearts to the other, to allow our world views to be challenged, to give space to new and different voices, to reject the comic-book world that divides the world into goodies and baddies, into 'us' and 'them'. To include, to reach out; truly to be hospitable, that is the kind of Christianity Jesus himself might recognise.

Colin Gibson